

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 09266 240108Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05
SS-15 STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02
OMB-01 DOE-15 /124 W
-----094590 240112Z /73

P 240103Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8153
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

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USMTN

DEPT PASS STR ELECTRONICALLY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, MTN, JA
SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS THAT GOJ PREPARED TO OFFER
ADDITIONAL TARIFF CUTS IN MTN

1. SUMMARY: JAPANESE VERNACULAR PRESS REPORTS USHIBA
WILL OFFER TO REDUCE TARIFFS TO AN AVERAGE THREE PERCENT
LEVEL IN THE MTN WHEN HE MEETS STRAUSS IN LOS ANGELES.
OFFER ON COLOR FILM TO BE 6-7 PERCENT AND ON COMPUTERS
8-9 PERCENT. END SUMMARY.

2. VERNACULAR PRESS REPORTS GOJ WILL OFFER TO
REDUCE TARIFFS ON MINERAL AND MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS TO
AN AVERAGE OF 3 PERCENT COMPUTED FROM A BASE INCLUDING
BOTH DUTY AND NON-DUTY PRODUCTS, IN THE MTN NEGOTIATIONS
BETWEEN AMB STRAUSS AND MINISTER USHIBA. SPECIFICS WILL
BE DISCUSSED BY MITI DIRECTOR GENERAL TAKAHASHI IN
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GENEVA LATER THIS WEEK. THIS REPRESENTS, ARTICLES SAID,
A REDUCTION OF ABOUT 50 PERCENT FOR JAPAN AS COMPARED
WITH AN INTERNATIONAL TARGET OF 40 PERCENT.

3. SPECIFICALLY, PRESS NOTED, THE OFFER WILL REDUCE
TARIFFS ON COLOR FILM TO 6-7 PERCENT, COMPUTERS TO 8-9
PERCENT, AND OTHER PRODUCTS TO ABOUT 3 PERCENT.

4. JAPAN, REPORTS SAID, WILL DEMAND, IN RETURN FOR THE ABOVE REDUCTIONS, THAT THE U.S. IMPROVE OFFERS TO LOWER TARIFFS ON ABOUT "L500" ITEMS, INCLUDING TEXTILES AND SUNDRY GOODS, WITH TARIFF RATES HIGHER THAN JAPAN'S.

5. COMMENT: ABOVE REPORT MAY BE FIRST STEP IN PROCESS OF PREPARING THE PUBLIC FOR ADDITIONAL MTN CONCESSIONS. THE NIHON KEIZAI, MAY 21, CARRIED A LONG HISTORIC REVIEW OF RECENT TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS WHICH EMPHASIZED U.S. AND EC DISAPPOINTMENT WITH PREVIOUS JAPANESE TARIFF REDUCTION OFFERS. A SHORT PARAGRAPH AT THE END OUTLINING JAPANESE DEMANDS SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN INCLUDED ALMOST AS AN AFTER-THOUGHT SO THAT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD NOT SEEM UNBALANCED. MANSFIELD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, FILMS, TARIFF LIBERALIZATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TOKYO09266
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780218-0005
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO USMTN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780522/aaaaasiq.tel
Line Count: 77
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 79064597-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2580914
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS REPORTS THAT GOJ PREPARED TO OFFER ADDITIONAL TARIFF CUTS IN MTN
TAGS: ETRD, JA, MTN
To: STATE GENEVA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/79064597-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014